

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is a land use master plan?

- It is a land use and infrastructure plan that sets forth local goals, objectives and policies for community growth and/or redevelopment over the next 20- 30 years. It contains a “future land use map,” which is often mistaken for zoning, which it is not.

2. Who was involved in creating Jonestown’s plan?

- Many months of work and input to craft the plan were provided by Jonestown’s own citizens, in the form of survey responses, community meetings and public hearings; a special committee of citizen volunteers representing all areas of Jonestown; the city’s volunteer boards and commissions; city elected officials, and city staff.

3. Why should a master land use plan matter to me?

- The master plan helps insure that future city development, zoning, and other changes are done in accordance with the goals and intent of all those citizens involved in its creation.

4. What is a future land use map?

- It is a planning tool used to help determine what types of development should occur and where over the next 20 years.

5. What are land use categories?

- There are five general land use categories: residential, commercial, recreational, agricultural, and transport (roads). A master plan seeks to manage and optimize the city’s future land use in all of these categories.

6. What is zoning?

- Zoning is a tool that cities use to govern how real property can and cannot be used in certain geographic areas. The purpose of zoning is to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the community, and encourage the most appropriate use of the land. It can be used to protect recreational areas, enhance the beauty of a community by requiring landscaping, buffers, and parking lot improvements, and protect residential properties from commercial development.

7. Will there be zoning changes with the land use plan update?

- The Planning & Zoning Commission will be working on updating the city’s zoning map in accordance with the plan update, and some zoning categories may be changed, added, or removed in the future. Any requests from individual property owners for zoning changes will be reviewed, taking into consideration the future land use map.